

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently amended) A lubricant for a run-flat tire, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

(a) a carrier fluid selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble fluid, a water-miscible fluid and mixtures thereof;

(b) a thickener; ~~and,~~

(c) a surfactant, and

wherein the lubricant has an initial viscosity above 100,000 centipoises at 25° C and 1-20 RPM as measured with a Brookfield viscometer, the lubricant undergoing temporary shear thinning and returning to substantially its starting viscosity after contact between an inner surface of an outer tire and a support ring of the run-flat tire.

2. (Original) The lubricant of claim 1 wherein the carrier fluid comprises a polyhydroxyl compound selected from the group consisting of diols, triols, tetrols, polyhydric alcohols, glycol ethers and mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) The lubricant of claim 2 wherein the carrier fluid is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, polypropylene glycols, polybutylene glycols, polyhexylene glycols, glycerin, sorbitol and mixtures thereof.

4. (Currently amended) The lubricant of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the carrier is present in an amount ranging from about 10% to about 95%, by weight, based on the total weight of the lubricant.

5. (Currently amended) The lubricant of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the thickener is selected from the group consisting of a clay, kieselguhr earths, a cellulosic material, a pre-gelled cellulose, an associative-type thickener, a wax, fumed silica, pigments, polyisobutylene, an alkali earth metal soap, aluminum stearate, polyurea, polyethyleneterephthalate, polyethylenes, polycarbohydrates, polycarboxylates, polyacrylates, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Original) The lubricant of claim 5 wherein the thickener is a clay.
7. (Original) The lubricant of claim 6 wherein the clay is selected from the group consisting of bentonite clay, hectorite clay and mixtures thereof.
8. (Original) The lubricant of claim 5 wherein the thickener is present in an amount ranging from 0.5% to about 40%, by weight, based on the total weight of the lubricant.
9. (Original) The lubricant of claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a silicone surfactant.
10. (Original) The lubricant of claim 9 wherein the surfactant is an alkoxylated silicone.
11. (Original) The lubricant of claim 1 wherein:
 - (a) the carrier fluid is present in an amount ranging from about 10% to about 95%, by weight, based upon the total weight of the lubricant and is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, polypropylene glycols, polybutylene glycols, polyhexylene glycols, glycerin, sorbitol and mixtures thereof,

(b) the thickener is a clay selected from the group consisting of bentonite clay, hectorite clay, and mixtures thereof, the clay being present in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 40%, by weight, based upon the total weight of the lubricant, and

(c) the surfactant is an alkoxylated silicone surfactant.

12. (Currently amended) A run-flat tire, comprising:

(a) an outer tire,

(b) an inner support ring, disposed interiorly of the carcass and having a surface facing the interior surface of the tire, and

(c) a lubricant disposed between the facing surface and the interior of the tire, the lubricant comprising:

(1) a carrier fluid selected from the group consisting of water-soluble fluid, a water-miscible fluid and mixtures thereof;

(2) a thickener; and,

(3) a surfactant, and

wherein the lubricant has an initial viscosity above 100,000 centipoises at 25° C and from 1 to 20 RPM as measured with a Brookfield viscometer, the lubricant undergoing temporary shear thinning and returning to substantially its starting viscosity after contact between an inner surface of an outer tire and a support ring of the run-flat tire.

13. (Original) The run-flat tire of claim 12 wherein the carrier fluid comprises a polyhydroxyl compound selected from the group consisting of diols, triols, tetrols, polyhydric alcohols, glycol ethers and mixtures thereof.

14. (Original) The run-flat tire of claim 13 wherein the carrier fluid is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, polypropylene glycols, polybutylene glycols, polyhexylene glycols, glycerin, sorbitol and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently amended) The run-flat tire of claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein the carrier is present in amount ranging from about 10% to about 95%, by weight, based on the total weight of the lubricant.

16. (Currently amended) The run-flat tire of claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein the thickener is selected from the group consisting of a clay, kieselguhr earths, a cellulosic material, a pre-gelled cellulose, an associative-type thickener, a wax, fumed silica, pigments, polyisobutylene, an alkali earth metal soap, aluminum stearate, polyurea, polyethyleneterephthalate, polyethylenes, polycarbohydrates, polycarboxylates, polyacrylates, and mixtures thereof.

17. (Original) The run-flat tire of claim 16 wherein the thickener is a clay.

18. (Original) The run-flat tire of claim 17 wherein the clay is selected from the group consisting of bentonite clay, hectorite clay and mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) The run-flat tire of claim 16 wherein the thickener is present in an amount ranging from 0.5% to about 40%, by weight, based on the total weight of the lubricant.

20. (Original) The run-flat tire of claim 13 wherein the surfactant is a silicone surfactant.

21. (Original) The lubricant of claim 20 wherein the surfactant is an alkoxyated silicone.

22. (Original) The lubricant of claim 12 wherein:

(a) the carrier fluid is present in an amount ranging from about 10% to about 95%, by weight, based upon the total weight of the lubricant and is selected by the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, polypropylene glycols, polybutylene glycols, polyhexylene glycols, glycerin, sorbitol and mixtures thereof,

(b) the thickener is a clay selected from the group consisting of bentonite clay, hectorite clay, and mixtures thereof, the clay being present in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 40%, by weight, based upon the total weight of the lubricant, and

(c) the surfactant is an alkoxyated silicone surfactant.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-22, as amended, remain in the application;

The above identified Office Action has been reviewed and the references carefully considered. In view thereof, the present amendment is submitted. It is contended that by the present amendment all bases of rejection set forth in the Office Action are traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.